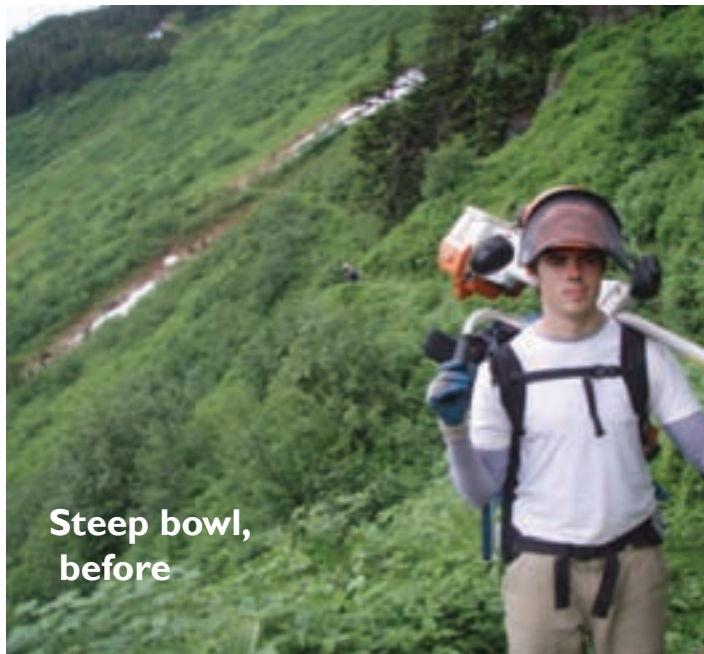


Alice Smith Trail

After over two decades of use since its initial construction, Alice Smith Trail was in need of some heavy deferred maintenance. The project consisted of tasks such as widening tread in steep, overgrown sections of trail, and a number of “legacy projects” which are features like log bridges and rock steps that are intended to last longer than the folks who built them. Rock steps and staircases were constructed to provide a fix for steep, eroded sections. Many of the rocks weighed in at a hefty 300 lbs. In one stretch, about 40 of these rocks were painstakingly placed to create a staircase of epic proportions. In many of the mucky sections, split log bridges were the answer, getting hikers up out of the slop.

A section of trail that opens up into steep bowl rife with salmonberry bushes growing on rocky slopes

and littered with burdensome boulders and debris sent down from the cliffs above was the ultimate challenge of the season. Each winter, avalanches rip down the hillside, causing debris and vegetation to encroach onto the trail, making it narrow and precarious for hikers in constantly slippery conditions. For a nearly mile-long stretch, and six switchbacks - picks, Pulaskis, and McCleods turned this section into a fresh, even, 3 ft wide specimen of a trail. The regular FS Trail Crew had the help of seven more sets of hands belonging to the volunteer SAGA crew. Another valuable asset to the crew was the help of three Student Conservation Association volunteers who spent the season working with the Trail Crew. Thanks to the hard work of all those involved, Alice Smith Trail has been restored to its original glory.



**Steep bowl,
before**



**Steep bowl,
after**